

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Air Force Training Fields in the Soviet Zone of Germany

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 4 June to 1 October 1952

DATE OF ANALYSIS 25 November 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - one sketch on ditto

REMARKS

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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Barth Firing Range.

1. Between 10 and 16 September 1952, no firing practices were held at Barth firing range. After 9 p.m. on 10 September, jet fighters flying with position lights north of Barth were observed being caught in the beams of AA searchlights. Between 12:40 and 1:45 p.m. on 30 September, three MiG-15s practiced firing at the range. The ceiling was at an altitude of about 800 meters. Between 2:50 and 3:20 p.m., a MiG-15 approached the range six times but fired only once. Between 9:40 and 11 a.m. on 1 October, two MiG-15s practiced firing and from 1:10 to 2:20 p.m., three MiG-15s were observed firing at targets set up at the range.

Kummersdorf Bomb Range.

2. During the period from 7 through 12 July 1952, bombs were dropped on the main target lane at Kummersdorf bomb range. The bombs were dropped from a great altitude, and only vapor trails were seen in the sky.
3. Bombs were dropped almost daily over the range from 8 to 10 August. From 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. during the night from 8 to 9 August, bombs were dropped from individual planes approaching the range with their position lights on; each of the planes dropped two bombs from level flights. There was a 7/10 overcast. After 12:30 p.m. on 12 August, jet bombers approaching individually at intervals of about 5 minutes dropped bombs over the range from an altitude of about 3,000 to 4,000 meters. Each of the planes involved dropped two bombs. The weather was clear. On the morning of 22 August, an air sleeve towed by a jet bomber at an altitude of 2,000 meters over the range was fired at by 3 swept-back jet fighters which approached the sleeve individually from the side. During the night from 29 to 30 August, bombing was practiced over the field by conventional piston engine aircraft which approached individually and dropped two bombs each after visual signals had been given. Under some of the planes which were flying at an estimated altitude of 2,000 meters, the terrain was brightly lighted for a few seconds. Subsequently a red glowing device looking like a basket quickly descended to the ground.

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4. From 11:30 p.m. to 00:45 a.m. during the night from 7 to 8 August, bombs were dropped over the range. From the noise heard, [redacted] jet bombers were involved in that exercise. Between 1 and 6 September, [redacted] jet bombers dropping bombs over Rummelsdorf from a great altitude. The bombs had a dark red tail which dissolved into small stars descending to the ground. It appeared [redacted] that these bombs caused fires at the range.<sup>2</sup>

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Aken Firing Range.

5. Between 4 and 13 September [redacted] there was a firing range at the former Junkers test field on the Koethen-Aken highway between kilometer marker stones 3.3 and 3.6. Firing was practiced at this range on every Tuesday and Friday. About 150 meters east of the highway, silhouettes of aircraft were cut into the turf. The sod was then removed, and the area marked by whitewash. Four such aircraft silhouettes, about 50 meters apart, were seen [redacted]. A circle with a diameter of about 100 meters was also observed. While the jet fighters were firing, a radio truck was stationed at the edge of the firing range which was cordoned off. [redacted] a sketch of the range.<sup>3</sup>

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Kreutzbruch Firing Range.

6. In June [redacted] several men parachuted from a multi-engine plane in the early morning hours on several days in June. [redacted] the parachutists observed had jumped over a former emergency landing strip of the German Air Force near Kreutzbruch. Farmers in Kreutzbruch had to abandon the meadows involved by 15 June. Since 20 June, the area has been off limits to all unauthorized personnel. On 13 July, [redacted] the firing range was east of the Behlenich-Hieberwalde highway, south of Kreutzbruch. A circular ditch had been dug out in the middle of the training field. The center of the circle was marked by white sand. At 2 a.m., [redacted] 5 single-engine planes approaching this circle successively.

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Templin Training Area.

7. Between 14 July and 7 August, Soviet jet fighters were seen almost daily firing at air sleeves towed by conventional piston aircraft in the area over Lehdenak, Joachimsthal, and Templin. Between 11 August and 6 September, the same practices were observed.<sup>5</sup>

Gross Derschau Training Area.

8. From 12:20 to 12:50 p.m. on 4 June, 1 aircraft were seen firing at air sleeves near Gross Derschau, about 10 km southwest of Neustadt/Dosse. The aircraft guns were operated by the gunner seated behind the pilot. Bursts of 3 to 4 rounds were fired. The aircraft towing the sleeve target at a distance of about 150 meters was of the same type as the attacking planes. The firing practices continued after 12:50 p.m.<sup>6</sup>

Malchin-Guelzow Training Area.

9. After 15 June, [redacted] jet fighters frequently fired at sleeve targets towed by twin-engine aircraft in the Malchin-Guelzow area. Most of the attacks were made while the planes flew at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 meters. Cartridge cases were frequently found in the fields of this area. During the period from 1 through 21 August, firing practices were held in this area once or twice a week. The swept-back jet fighters would approach the sleeve targets from the rear or from the side at intervals of a few minutes.<sup>7</sup>

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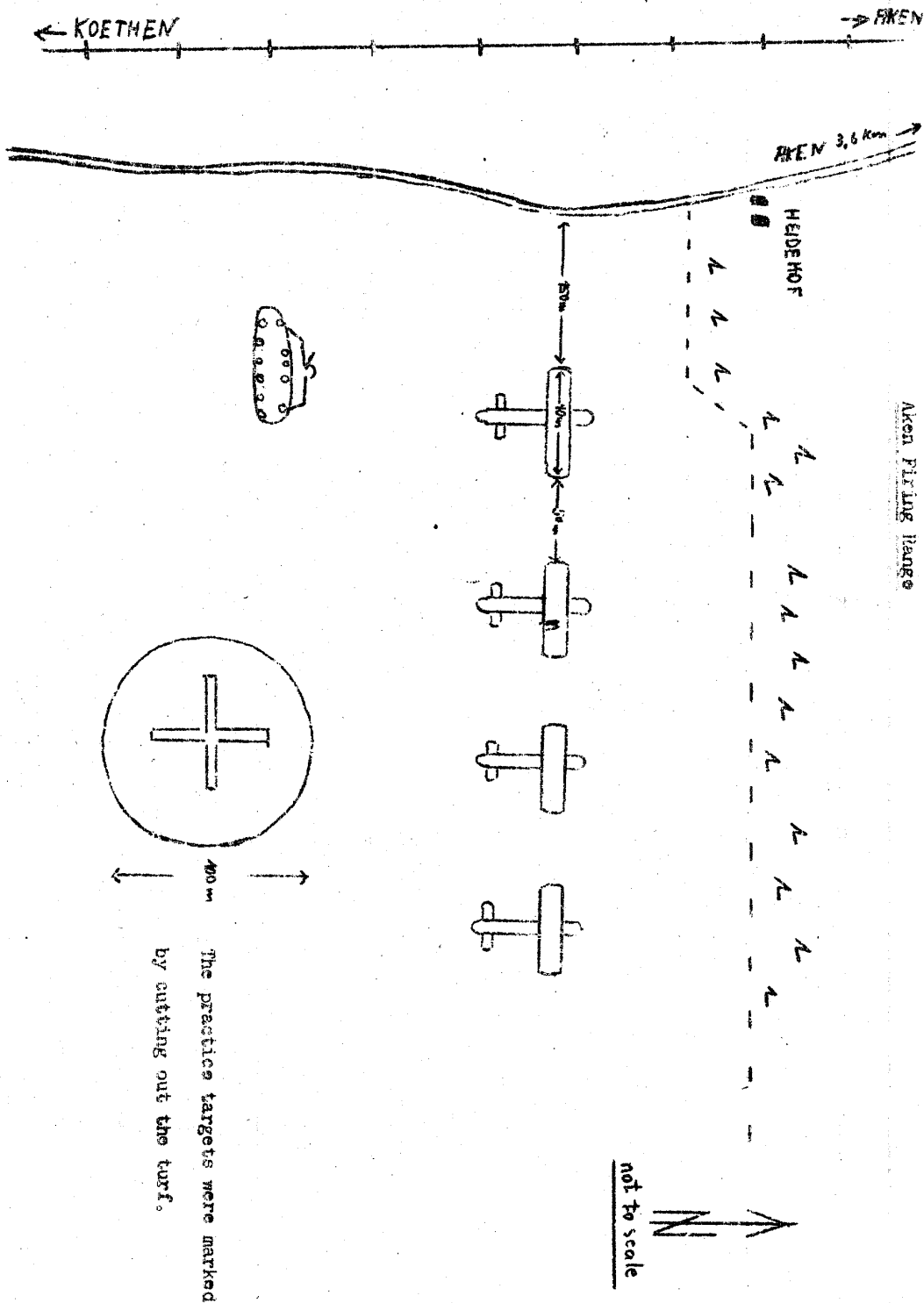
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- 25X1 1. [ ] Comment. The former airfield at Barth is being used as a firing range by the two fighter regiments stationed at Pucknitz.
- 25X1 2. [ ] Comment. Krumersdorf range is used by bomber and ground attack units. The aircraft observed were IL-10s and IL-28s and probably belonged to the air units stationed in Justerbog-Altes Lager and Reinsdorf. It appears that parachute flares are used in night practices.
- 25X1 3. [ ] Comment. The Aken firing range is probably used by the fighter regiment from Koethen. For sketch of this field, see Annex 1.
- 25X1 4. [ ] Comment. The existence near Kreuzbruch of a firing range is reported for the first time. It is unknown what unit uses this training field.
- 25X1 5. [ ] Comment. It is believed that this firing at sleeve targets was conducted by the fighter regiment stationed in Pinow.
- 25X1 6. [ ] Comment. From the data given, it is inferred that the firing observed involved IL-10 aircraft which were probably assigned to the ground attack regiment in Stendal.
- 25X1 7. [ ] Comment. It is believed that these firing practices were held by the fighter regiments in Laerz.

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